

Message Text

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61
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8670
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC
USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 3232

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, ABUD, US
SUBJECT: USG CONTRIBUTION TO ICC/LAOS

REF:
A. VIENTIANE 3135
B. VIENTIANE A-33
C. VIENTIANE 3147
D. STATE 065583
E. STATE 06986

1. FOLLOWING UP ON ICC CHAIRMAN GHAREKHAN'S REQUEST
TO AMBASSADOR FOR US CONTRIBUTION TO ICC LAOS

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REF A), WE CONSULTED SEPARATELY WITH CANDEL SIMARD
AND INDEL COMPTROLLER KAKKAR ON SUBJECT APRIL 23.

BASED ON THEIR VIEWS, WE BELIEVE AN IMMEDIATE USG CONTRIBUTION TO ICC/LAOS WOULD BE A USEFUL ACTION AT THIS TIME.

2. BOTH SIMARD AND KAKKAR CONFIRMED THAT ICC FINANCIAL SITUATION WAS EXTREMELY PRECARIOUS AND URGENT. THERE ARE ONLY ENOUGH FUNDS TO MEET CURRENT EXPENSES UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY. KAKKAR SAID THAT SO FAR THIS YEAR, ONLY UK HAS CONTRIBUTED, IN AMOUNT OF 10,000 POUNDS. FRANCE WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF ITS UNUSUALLY LARGE CONTRIBUTION IN CYS 72/73. SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS RECOMMENDED TO MOSCOW THAT SOVIET CONTRIBUTION BE MADE NOW, AND UK REPORTEDLY IS CONSIDERING ADVANCING DATE OF ITS REGULAR QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTION. HOWEVER, KAKKAR DOUBTS THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE QUICKLY ENOUGH TO ALLEVIATE IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL PLIGHT. (REF B AND PRECEDING AIRGRAM DETAIL PREVIOUS YEARS' CONTRIBUTIONS AND ICC EXPENDITURES.)

3. CANDEL SIMARD INDICATED PRIVATELY THAT AN AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION AT THE PRESENT TIME WOULD NOT BE REGARDED BY OTTAWA AS UNDERCUTTING CANADIAN POSITION ON ICC ROLE IN LAOS UNDER TERMS OF LAOS AGREEMENTS. WE RECEIVED IMPRESSION FROM SIMARD THAT THREAT OF CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ICC/LAOS WAS EVAPORATING AFTER DEFEAT OF CANADIAN AJOURNMENT SINE DIE MOTION IN APRIL 19 FORMAL ICC MEETING (REF C). HE SUGGESTED THAT OTTAWA FELT ITS POINT HAD BEEN MADE IN THE FLURRY OF REACTION FROM OTHER ICC POWERS WHICH GREETED ITS AJOURNMENT SINE DIE PROPOSAL.

4. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE QUITE USEFUL POLITICALLY FOR THE USG TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO ICC/LAOS AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, IN THE WAKE OF FORMATION OF THE NEW PGNU COALITION GOVERNMENT. SUCH A CONTRIBUTION WOULD DEMONSTRATE USG SUPPORT FOR THE LAOS SETTLEMENT, AND HELP DEFRAY COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA THAT USG STILL ENTERTAINS HOPE OF OVERTURNING IT. IT WOULD TEND TO REINFORCE THE POSITIONS PUT FORTH IN REFS D AND E ON

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THE IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO KEEPING THE ICC FUNCTIONING IN LAOS. BECAUSE OF THE LARGE FRENCH CONTRIBUTIONS OF 1972 AND 1973, A NEW USG CONTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT PUR USG GREATLY AHEAD OF NEXT LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE TO CONTRIBUTE ONE-HALF OF OUR USUAL YEARLY AMOUNT, I.E., \$50,000. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT USG CONTRIBUTION OF US \$50 THOUSAND BE CREDITED TO ICC ACCOUNT 50521/3 IN BANQUE DE L'INDOCHINE IN HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 1974. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING

NOTIFIED EXPEDITIOUSLY OF DATE OF DEPOSIT SO THAT WE
CAN BENEFIT FROM PUBLICIZING CONTRIBUTION HERE AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE.
WHITEHOUSE

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